

Caux Initiatives for Business (CIB) has finally come of age in Kenya. This follows a successful visit to Kenya by CIB Director, Sarosh Ghandy from India and Folker Mittag from Germany. Their visit from May 23 to 30, 2015 came at a time when a national debate was going on. The theme of the debate was on how ethically we conduct our national affairs. Both Sarosh and Folker quickly familiarised themselves with the country.

The first day, Sunday, was spent with Initiatives of Change (IofC) friends in Nairobi at the residence of Joseph Karanja who hosted the two guests. They were briefed how the ensuing days were lined up - visits to several CEOs, two high profile engagements with both business and political leaders are some of the activities. The highlight was to be the first ever CIB Round Table where close to 30 business Executives attended, courtesy of Tata Chemicals Magadi.

In a bid to support CIB Kenya, courtesy calls were made. Ms. Wacheke Gachukia of Siemens Ltd. and her team warmly received the visitors together with Joseph Karanja at their Nairobi Office. Sarosh and Folker introduced CIB and what it stands for. The idea was very well received by the hosts. They expressed their support in helping CIB take root in Kenya.

The following day, Fountain Media was the next stop. The MD, Bedan Mbugua and Editorial Director, Johnson Mwakazi hosted the three of us in their Lavington Office. The two hosts shared with us their work with businesses. How to incorporate CIB in their work featured prominently. As I write this report, CIB's idea of Round Tables has been fully accepted by the Media House, and the wider Fountain Group. I will be writing more on this before the end of August.

Dr. James Mageria is a prominent Kenyan, especially in business circles. He is widely regarded as the father of CEOs in Kenya. He is currently the Chairman of The Karen Hospital, one of the best private health providers on the Continent. He hosted us for afternoon tea in his boardroom and shared deeply of his conviction and his engagement with business and the political leadership. The meeting was powerful, humorous and uplifting for all. Dr. Mageria and Joseph are great teammates who, together, initiated national dialogues that changed the governance structures of the country. Dr. Mageria's influence in business and politics was evident in the activities that followed in the next two days.

Sarosh, Folker and Joseph had a busy Wednesday and Thursday, meeting with other top business leaders and Members of Parliament at the Safari Park Hotel. The national leaders were discussing, "DOING THINGS RIGHT". Sarosh and Folker got to meet and exchange pleasantries with some of them. The two never wasted a chance to plant the CIB seed. Former Mayor of Nairobi, Nathan Kahara was hugely impressed. He is assembling business leaders this August for me share about CIB.

On Thursday, May 28, we attended the Annual National Prayer Breakfast at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi. The President and the Deputy President graced the event. One of the highlights was a moving testimony of forgiveness by Hon. Hassan, MP, Kamukunji constituency, Nairobi. Hon. Hassan is recovering from a terrorist bomb attack outside a mosque in his constituency. The MP, a businessman himself moved everybody when he said "I found peace when I decided to forgive my attackers." He challenged all of us to uphold good, both in private and public life. The MP, a good friend of Joseph Karanja is keen to attend future CIB conferences. His condition however does not allow him to come to Panchgani, India in January.

Tata Group is a natural leader when it comes to ethics in business. Tata Chemicals Magadi Ltd., Kenya is no exception. Thanks to its Managing Director, Engineer Jack Mbui, the event crowned the visit for Sarosh and Folker. Tata Chemicals Magadi not only hosted and sponsored the event but actively participated in the first ever CIB Round Table on Kenyan soil. The event that took place at the 5 Star Panafric Hotel, Nairobi attracted close to 30 participants from big, medium and small business establishments. The Tata philosophy, developed over many decades was very well put by Eng. Jack while opening and welcoming participants to the Round Table. Their engagement with other participants was very helpful to those facing challenges of ethics in their businesses. Engineer Jack had personally travelled all the way from Magadi, two weeks before the visit to meet with Joseph Karanja to plan for the Round Table and the visit in general. This was an outstanding act of humility and commitment.

The RT was ably facilitated by Sarosh and Folker. Dr. Mageria gave an input that set the stage for a meaningful conversation. Experiences were shared, both positive and negative, and the beauty of it all was the realization that the answers to many of the challenges were with the people around the table. Sarosh's other talent was exposed when he and Mike Muikia beautifully sang a song from IofC titled, The Gap. The hunger for such Round Tables was evident, with many calling for more Round Tables across Kenya.

The meeting formally ended at lunch time. Participants had lunch by the pool, taking the opportunity to make friendships and discussing strategies for future engagements. Things are cooking right now and will be the subject of the next report that is coming within a month.

Here are a few comments from some of the participants:

- Ms. Anastasia Muthoni, Electric 2000 Ltd: The Round Table has been a meeting of minds and hearts. It is a prerequisite for the survival of businesses and economic growth of Kenya.

- Mr. Lakshmi, CEO, Nairobi Tanneries: CIB is a bold initiative that has come to Kenya when it is needed most.
- Mr. Kepta Ombati, former CEO of a donor agency, and currently CEO of an Agribusiness: I'm greatly encouraged and inspired by the story of Tata Chemicals. Their philosophy needs to be replicated many times. CIB is a seed that we must nurture for our growth.

It was a week that was rewarding and rich. Gratitude to Sarosh and Folker for coming to Kenya and all those who spared time to interact with them. To Eng. Jack and his PA, Ms. Carol Opondo and the entire Tata Chemicals for providing a car and a driver for the guests, right from arrival to departure and for hosting the Round Table and the preparation around it. To CIB India, Allan Burby, GM, Tata Quality Management Services (TQMS), Luis Gomes, Dr. Amit Mukerjee (all from India). I can't possibly exhaust the list IofC Kenya. You are all great. Keep it up!